



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appn. Number: 08/580,493

Appn. Filed: 1995 Dec 29

Applicant: Philippe Berna

Appn. Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING A VERSATILE CLAMPING DEVICE
DESIGNED TO HOLD OBJECTS WITHOUT DAMAGING THEM, SUCH A
DEVICE AND ITS USE.

Examiner/GAU: David Bryant/3726

#725
amdl
H Chapman
9-4-01
NE

Molières-sur-Cèze, France, 2001, August 9, Thu

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box FWC

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, District of Columbia 20231

RECEIVED
AUG 28 2001
3700 MAIL ROOM

Sir:

Prior any action in the above continuation application and in response to the Office
Action mailed 2001, June 12, please amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 16-18 in amended form:

16. (Seven Times Amended) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms[:],

sliding in direction of said object said at least one movable arm along said support part so as to apply the contact face of said elastic buffer against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms to clamp said object between said arms, while the force exerted by fingers or hand palms on said backs is [more or less] practically transmitted by translation against said object, which reacts and opposes a resistance increasing with the exerted pressure, and
stopping the exertion of pressure when hands feel enough resistance,